

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 TRSE-00 OPIC-12

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 H-03 OMB-01 DRC-01

/072 W

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R 301755Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1750

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARAMARIBO 369

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, EIND, EFIN, US, DR, JM, NS

SUBJECT: SURALCO-GOS NEGOTIATIONS

1. SEVERAL POINTS OF INTEREST REGARDING SURALCO NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOS AND RELATED MATTERS EMERGED DURING SURALCO MANAGING DIRECTOR BUSTION'S INITIAL CALL ON ME YESTERDAY.

2. BUSTION REPORTS VERY STRONG INDICATIONS THAT GOS WILL DELAY TALKS ON FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS WITH SURALCO, ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR EARLY AUGUST, UNTIL OCTOBER OR POSSIBLY LATER. HE HOPES GOS CAN BE PERSUADED OPEN NEGOTIATIONS AT EARLIER DATE SINCE POSTPONEMENT WOULD AFFORD GOS LONGER TIME TO PREPARE POSITION AND CONSULT WITH JAMAICANS.

3. WHEN I QUERIED BUSTION REGARDING HIS ESTIMATE OF MIN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BRUMA'S LIKELY INFLUENCE ON GOS BAUXITE POSITION, BUSTION REPLIED MINISTER-PRESIDENT ARRON HAS TAKEN ON BAUXITE QUESTION AS HIS PERSONAL ISSUE AND THAT ARRON WOULD PROBABLY ENDEAVOR DENY LEFTIST BRUMA A ROLE IN THE PROCEEDINGS. HE NOTED COOLNESS BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS, AND DISPARITY IN PERSONALITIES AND OUTLOOK AS FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO HIS VIEW.

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RM BUSTION (PROTECT THIS PARA) DOES NOT SUBSCRIBE TO VIEW EXPRESSED BY ALCOA SENIOR OFFICIAL EARLIER THIS MONTH THAT SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR SURALCO WILL REST HEAVILY ON SURINAM'S "TRADITION" OF HONORING CONTRACTS. BUSTION INDICATED THIS OVERLY SANGUINE AND THAT OTHER FACTORS LIKELY PLAY MORE IMPORTANT PART IF SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT REACHED.

5. RELATED TO PARA 4, MANAGING DIRECTOR HOPES EXISTING BROKOPONDO OPERATING AGREEMENT CAN BE KEPT INTACT AND THAT REVENUE MATTERS CAN BE NEGOTIATED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE OUTSIDE BROKOPONDO CONTEXT.

6. FINALLY, BUSTION PLACES CREDENCE IN GOS STATEMENT EXCLUDING EXPROPRIATION AS ELEMENT OF ECONOMIC POLICY. HE ACKNOWLEDGES, HOWEVER, THAT SURALCO'S POSITION HERE IS BOUND TO CHANGE AND BELIEVES NATIONALIZATION INEVITABLE AT SOME FUTURE TIME.

7. OUR INITIAL MEETING WAS CORDIAL AND SEEMINGLY OPEN. MY FIRST IMPRESSION IS OF A CANNY, SOUND, AND EARNEST PERSON WHO SHOULD SERVE SURALCO'S INTERESTS WELL DURING A DIFFICULT PERIOD.

8. STATE 164512 JUST RECEIVED AND WILL BE SUBJECT SEPTTEL.
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Message Attributes

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